

EDITOR'S MISCELLANY



THE LANDSCAPE GARDENERS OF JUSTICE.—It is most gratifying to hear the voices of lawyers, both those still in the ranks and those who have been elevated to the bench, loud in denunciation of lynching and in urging that the public conscience be quickened. It would be still more gratifying if these gentlemen learned in the law went on from castigations of the people to self-examination and self-castigation.

Justice is the dream of humanity through all the ages. And to the lawyers as to no other class, as not to all other classes combined, has humanity looked with hope and trust for the realization of that dream. Yet what do we find? These same lawyers, instead of planning to make broad and level, plain and toll-less, the road between the wronged man and his rights, between the wronger and his dues, have planned and still plan that road on lines that a landscape gardener might envy. And at every turning, in every dense thicket through which it leads, or rather wanders vaguely, they have set up a toll-gate.

Courts thronged with lawyers, Legislatures and Congresses swarming with lawyers, statute-books never out of the custody of lawyers, the entire machinery of justice in the possession of lawyers—and lawyers have the face to stand in bland self-righteousness, waxing wroth over sins which are in large measure the result of their own passions for hair-splittings and for fees.—*Saturday Evening Post.*

THE managers of Bellevue Training-School have recently issued the following appeal, of interest to a great number of our readers:

“ BELLEVUE TRAINING-SCHOOL A PRIVATE CORPORATION.

“ Although Bellevue is our great city hospital and will be in the future one of the finest and largest in any city, the school which trains the nurses who care for the sick in its wards is a private corporation administered by the Board of Managers.

“ Thirty years ago the condition of the wards in Bellevue Hospital was deplorable. Such a thing as a trained nurse was not then known in this country, but the crying need was felt for some action which should do away with the horror of those poor, neglected, suffering creatures, lying amid filth and vermin, and attended by the Workhouse paupers of the city, whose attendance must have been far worse than neglect. A few well-known philanthropic women took the matter in hand, and obtained *permission* to put pupil nurses in Bellevue Hospital. On February 4, 1873, a private corporation was formed ‘for the training of nurses for the sick, in order that women shall find a school for their education, and the public reap the advantage of skilled and educated labor.’ What was then a permission has since become a peremptory demand. All over the country are hospitals, and in every one of any value the trained nurse is as indispensable as food or medicine.

“ THE VALUE OF THIS PRIVATE CORPORATION

in preserving the school from the disturbances incident to constant political changes has been inestimable. The medical profession connected with the hos-

pital, the present Board of Hospital Trustees, all wish to preserve the integrity and autonomy of the mother Training-School of this country. To do this we must be ready to meet the demand which will be made upon us to nurse the wards of the new Bellevue. We cannot wait for the new hospital to be built, for our experience tells us that as the present building is inadequate to the number of patients who now need care, so the new hospital will be rapidly filled, and that we must be prepared to competently care for those working men and women who lay down for a time their burden of work to bear that of pain and suffering.

"THE PRESENT CROWDED CONDITION OF THE WARDS

makes it necessary now for each nurse to care on an average for nearly seven and one-half patients. This average is arrived at by taking the whole number of patients and the whole number of nurses on day duty. It is necessarily a little misleading, as there are some wards in which there are helpless infants where a slightly better showing could be made, but, on the other hand, there are wards where a nurse must undertake the physically impossible task of caring for eleven or twelve or even more patients each. This crowded condition is one which we must look forward to as being more or less constant until the new hospital is built, as our constantly increasing population makes a constantly increasing demand upon the resources of both hospital and Training-School. The average of nurses to patients in the best hospitals not run by cities is 4.7. Are we to deserve the reproach that we take less good care of the patients in the wards of Bellevue than those so-called private hospitals take of theirs?

"THE SCHOOL HAS OUTGROWN ITS HOME

in the original building given us by the late Mrs. William H. Osborn, one of the incorporators of the society. Within the last two years we have been obliged to rent two adjoining buildings. These, of course, are ill adapted to our use, but were the best available. The time for these makeshift arrangements has passed. Our duty is to look forward and to project into the future whatever of good we have stood for in the past. Our private income is small, and we have reached the limit of our resources. The city pays us a certain sum monthly for our superintendent, her assistants, and each pupil nurse. This sum is supplemented by us, as it is not enough to cover our necessary expenditures. It has been proven that the most successful way to run a *quasi* public undertaking is to have a private corporation assisted in some measure by the city. There need only be cited as illustration of this truth the Natural History Museum, the Zoological Gardens, and the Aquarium.

"A NEW HOME IS NECESSARY,

and we wish to erect in the rear of our present home, that is, on the lots on Twenty-fifth Street on which we have an option, a permanent building of such arrangement and capacity as will accommodate the number of nurses necessary, not only for our present but for our future work. To enable us to do this the contributions must be immediate and generous, and

WE MAKE OUR CALL

upon the public with high confidence, knowing that there will be an answering impulse in the heart of everyone who has felt the blessing and relief in their own home of the well-trained nurse. This blessing and relief we have been trying for thirty years to give in some measure to those who cannot have it in their homes, and yet who, for their worth to the commonwealth, should be sheltered, cared for,

and restored to their usefulness. Nor must it be forgotten that in the necessity for the new and enlarged Bellevue Hospital lies not only our obligation but also our opportunity, and beyond that the relief of innumerable private patients who reap the benefit of the rigid training of the hospitals.

"For the greater the field the wider the work, and the nurses can no more be trained to the highest efficiency without the scientific equipment of the modern hospital, than the patients in that hospital can be cared for without the trained nurse."

THE STORY OF THE WHITE ROCKS MISSION.—In 1896 I came with Miss Garrett to the reservation adjoining White Rocks. I had had no special training for the work, and I knew nothing whatever about Indians, so the first thing to be done was to study *them* and to make friends. This soon became so interesting that I begrudged the time and strength given to cooking and washing dishes! I bought a pony and visited the camps. In a short time the Indians within reach knew me and greeted me with a smile. I tried to teach the children English; one old squaw invited me to come and live at her house in order to teach her grandchildren! I gave the children clothes which had been sent by the Auxiliary, and persuaded them to wash their faces and braid their hair. One little motherless mite, as soon as she saw me coming, used to trot off to the brook, where I had taken her several times to wash her face. It was very gratifying when I left to come up here to live to hear of the expressions of regret from my Indian friends. When I go back there on a visit their cordial greetings warm my heart.

The bishop asked me to come to White Rocks in 1899. No missionary had been stationed here before. I rode up on my pony, twenty miles, and was very pleasantly situated at first, living with the field matron; but she was ordered away, and I had to live alone. The sick had always excited my sympathy, and I felt the need of a nurse's training so keenly that I went home to Virginia and took a six-months' course in a hospital; that training has been invaluable to me.

We then began to collect funds for a hospital and mission house combined, for on returning here I had to beg a lodging place of the agent. I was allowed two rooms in an old building that had been given up to rubbish and rats. The spring after I returned from the hospital I nursed two cases and took an infant into the house whose mother had died when it was only a few days old. This baby lived long enough—eight months—to take such a place in my heart that there was no more room for loneliness, and to leave such a void when she died that I was tempted to give the work up and go somewhere else. But afterwards I felt that I did the right thing in staying.

I had thought the Indians would never trust me with another baby, but four months after an infant, just twenty-four hours old, was brought to me, and four months after that another, six weeks old, was brought in. The Indians take a great deal of interest in the two boys; and their being kept clean, fed properly, and put to bed regularly makes a wonderful difference in them, their eyes are so bright and they seem so intelligent.

Red Moon's father used to come to see him often and was very proud of him, but on the third of July he died in a very sad way. It was just before the Indians had their sun dance. This man had been at work up in the mountains and was taken ill. The other Indians went off and left him alone, and he must have been there nearly a week before an old Indian went up and brought him down; he died the next day. On one of the last visits he made his boy, after

talking to him for awhile he turned to me and said he had asked Red Moon if he would like to go and live with him on his farm, but that Red Moon said "No," he wanted to go and live in the "new house" (the hospital). That was his way of expressing his appreciation of what had been done for his boy. On another occasion he told me that if he should die he wanted me to keep his baby always; I was never to let any Indian take him away from me. I have applied to the courts, with the agent's approval, to be appointed guardian. The Indians' name for me now is, "Mother to the Ute Babies."

In June, 1902, Miss Murray, from Boston, joined me, and in August, 1903, we moved into the new mission house, *i.e.*, St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Here we have reception- and dining-rooms, which we use as a Sunday-school hall, three bedrooms, a large ward with six new beds and all their fittings, and an operating-room, besides the kitchen, bathroom, and store-room. The first night I slept in my pleasant, airy room, a *real* room, not a stuffy cubby-hole, it seemed delightful; and when the first storm with pouring rain beat upon the windows we sat and looked at it with much satisfaction, knowing that it would not come in, either under the door or through the roof.

We are getting the place furnished gradually. The White Rocks people have shown a great deal of interest and have been very generous in their gifts. The agent has had a nice plank-walk laid, but the place is not enclosed, nor is there shelter for the horse and buggy or for the wood and coal. Carrying the water is harder than it was at the old place, but we hope all this will be remedied in time, and that we will not wear out first. There are so many things a missionary can do for himself if he is a man, but being women and in a place where it is almost impossible to get workmen, we must wait.—LUCY N. CARTER, in *Spirit of Missions*.

AN ADVANCED NURSING COURSE.—There is considerable talk in Boston of having one of our women's colleges open a course in nursing for mothers, matrons of advanced years, and persons who have anything to do with household care. The idea originated in the course in the management of the home now being given at Simmons College. If women who are their own housekeepers are willing to learn to direct their menage upon correct principles, no obstacle appears why they should not be taught scientific nursing, so that when members of their family are ill they will know how to apply the most effective treatment without going to the expense of hiring a professional nurse. The idea seems reasonable enough, and if Simmons College or some other institution of its kind opens a course of this character it will be liberally patronized.

[We are not prepared to vouch for the truth of the above, but the idea is good. Trained home nurses, after a little practical experience, will be likely to appreciate a good nurse when they are obliged to have one—and the more knowledge the better.—ED.]

DISTRICT NURSING IN IRELAND.—Lady Dudley makes an appeal through some of the newspapers in this country to the Irish people in America for money for a fund to provide district nurses in the poorest parts of Ireland. In this appeal she says:

"In many parts of Ireland, especially those known as the 'congested districts,' no provision is made for nursing the sick poor in their own homes. The population is purely agricultural and acutely poverty-stricken, and the Boards of Guardians in these districts cannot supply even the ordinary maternity nurses.

The people assist one another, the poor supporting the destitute; but a rate in aid of the nursing fund cannot be levied in these districts, for that would merely be taxing the already overburdened population in one direction to benefit them in another. Moreover, as there are seldom any resident gentry or well-to-do inhabitants of the middle classes, it is equally impossible to obtain voluntary contributions from local sources. During the past year sufficient money has been collected to establish and endow eight Jubilee nurses. Four of these have been at work some little time, four more will be so shortly. But applications from districts equally poor and necessitous are coming in constantly, and, unless the fund receives further assistance, the answer sent to such applications must be unfavorable. I can, perhaps, best bring the real condition of affairs home to your readers by citing one typical case, that of Knocknlower, in a western union which I have recently visited. In this bleak moorland district of seventy thousand acres there is scarcely a dwelling of any kind except the wretched cabins of the five thousand small landholders, and so utterly poverty-stricken is the place that it is difficult to find a doctor who will remain, no less than ten appointed having resigned during the past five years. In this district, the valuation is only twelve shillings two-pence, while the rates amount to five shillings ten-pence on houses and two shillings nine-pence on lands. It will therefore be seen that it would not be practicable to provide a nurse at the expense of the rates. In many parts of the district the people have to journey a whole day across the bogs to obtain medical relief. They have also had to be kept alive by special relief works on eight occasions in the past twenty years.

"I feel confident that the work of supplying properly qualified district nurses for places like this only requires to be brought more prominently to the notice of the Irish people in America to insure for it no inconsiderable measure of support.

"I shall be happy to furnish particulars of the scheme with an account of work done to anyone who desires further information. Annual subscriptions or donations may be sent to me, or to the secretary, the Bank of Ireland, Dublin, marked 'Lady Dudley's Fund for District Nurses.'"

A NEW REGISTRY.—An effort has been made during the past year to establish a local association to be known as the Nurses' Metropolitan Registry Association of Richmond for the maintenance of a central registry and the establishment of a club-house or club-rooms for nurses. A similar organization exists in Norfolk, Va.

THE following resolutions were recently passed at a meeting of the Mississippi Medical Association:

"WHEREAS, The value of perfect sight and hearing is not fully appreciated by educators, and neglect of the delicate organs of vision and hearing often leads to disease of these structures; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That it is the sense of the Mississippi Valley Medical Association that measures be taken by Boards of Health, Boards of Education, and school authorities, and, where possible, legislation secured, looking to the examination of the eyes of all school children, that disease in its incipiency may be discovered and corrected."